

Dear Transportation Committee Member,

As a resident of an area of the state that suffers from unacceptable levels of PM2.5, I am writing to voice my support for HB 5039 and SB 4. These bills are especially important to me because greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector rose in 2018, putting the state out of alignment with its required climate goals, according to the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's most recent Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report.

The transportation sector is CT's leading source of emissions, and the state must exhaust every last program it can to reduce emissions from this sector to provide cleaner air for people to breathe.

HB 5039 would reduce pollution from trucks by adopting California's medium and heavy-duty vehicle emissions standards.

Despite accounting for only 6% of vehicles in the state, large trucks and buses account for nearly 25% of Connecticut's transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, and approximately half of emissions of the transportation pollutants, such as nitrogen oxides (NOx) and fine particulate matter, that directly harm human health.

Connecticut has a long history of benefitting from California's light duty motor vehicle standards. Now we have the opportunity to benefit from their more stringent standards for medium and heavy-duty vehicles as well. We urge the Committee to approve this common-sense, yet critical, measure.

On a similar note, SB 4 would reduce carbon emissions and protect public health by (1) requiring the state to lead by example in the adoption of electric fleet vehicles and buses, (2) increasing incentive funding for the purchase of electric vehicles, (3) expanding access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and (4) establishing a matching grant program to facilitate the deployment of electric school buses throughout the state and setting goals to achieve a 100% electric school bus fleet, among other elements.

These bills provide our state with the tools to reduce emissions from the transportation sector, and move us towards a clean transportation future. Please support and vote yes on these crucial pieces of legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment in support of a well-protected climate future.

Sincerely,

Ms. Melissa Leonard

450 Gunntown Rd Naugatuck, CT 06770-3639

**gmleonard@comcast.net**